In the Claims:

1 - 6. canceled.

7. (currently amended): A method of connecting a user computing device to one of a plurality of remote computers available for communication over a network comprising:

a) reading an audio signal to obtain an index encoded therein;

b) accessing a database with the index, the database comprising a plurality of records that link an index to a pointer which identifies a remote computer on the network;

c) obtaining a pointer from the database with at least reference to the index; and

d) using the pointer to establish communication with the remote computer identified thereby. ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reading a data carrier modulated with an index comprises inputting into the user computing device an audible signal modulated with information correlated to the index.~~

8 – 36. canceled.

37. (currently amended): A system comprising:

a. a user computing device;

b. an input device associated with the user computing device, wherein the input device is configured to obtain an index from an encoded audio signal;

c. means for storing a database comprising a plurality of records that link an index to a pointer which identifies a remote computer;

wherein the user computing device comprises:

means for accessing the database to extract a pointer from the database with at least reference to the index; and

means for using the pointer to establish communication with the remote computer identified thereby. ~~The system of claim 31 wherein the input device comprises means for inputting into the user computing device an audible signal modulated with information correlated to the index.~~

38. – 66. canceled.

67. (currently amended): <u>A user computing device comprising:</u>

<u>a. an input device configured to obtain an index from an encoded audio signal; and</u>

<u>b. computer processing circuitry to execute instructions to:</u>

<u>utilize the index to access a database comprising a plurality of records that link an index to a pointer which identifies a remote computer;</u>

<u>retrieve from the database a pointer with at least reference to the index; and</u>

<u>use the pointer to establish communication with the remote computer identified thereby.</u> ~~The user computing device of claim 61 wherein the input device comprises means for inputting into the user computing device an audible signal modulated with information correlated to the index.~~

68. – 95. canceled.

96. (new): The method of claim 7 wherein the pointer comprises at least one of a uniform resource locator (URL), IP address or network address.

97. (new): The system of claim 37 wherein the pointer comprises at least one of a uniform resource locator (URL), IP address or network address.

98. (new): The user computing device of claim 67 wherein the pointer comprises at least one of a uniform resource locator (URL), IP address or network address.